



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: May 19, 2009

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Community Services, Police Department

SUBJECT: Appropriation Of Asset Forfeiture Funds For The Purchase Of Equipment And Donations To The Santa Barbara Police Activities League And The Council On Alcoholism And Drug Abuse

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council appropriate \$59,000 in currently available asset forfeiture funds to the Police Special Operations Account to fund the purchase of equipment and contributions to the Police Activities League and the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

DISCUSSION:

According to the California Attorney General's Annual Report on Asset Forfeiture, "The goal of asset forfeiture is to remove the profits from those that benefit from illegal drug trade." The report goes on to provide: "Asset forfeiture proceeds are used to fund education and drug abuse prevention programs." The law also permits law enforcement agencies to use the proceeds of forfeiture to purchase safe, more effective equipment that they otherwise could not afford. Based on this, the Police Department seeks to utilize currently available asset forfeiture funds to purchase necessary reflective vests, to provide funds to the Santa Barbara Police Activities League and provide funds for the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse to fund their "Kids Fight Drugs" Calendar Program.

Federal regulations now require that all workers within the right-of-way of a federal-aid highway who are exposed either to traffic or to construction equipment within the work area must wear high-visibility safety apparel. This regulation took effect on November 24, 2008. The Police Department will purchase vests for its employees who may be placed in a position to perform duties on or near federal highway right-of-ways. The cost of the vests is \$6,000.

The Police Department is in need of security cameras to monitor the police station's temporary holding cells. The cells must be monitored for prisoner safety, suicide prevention and officer safety. The cell activity is recorded and stored for one year in accordance with the City's records retention policy and State law. The recordings offer some protection for the City and officers against false accusations in the event of an in-custody death.

For economic reasons, there has been a reduction in personnel assigned to the police Records section. As a result, business hours have been shortened and the Police Department is not open to walk-in visitors during non-business hours. The public continues to arrive at the Police Department at all hours. These people are often crime victims or people picking up detainees. During the late evening hours, the front door is locked and the lobby area is not monitored. The front door is controlled from the Communications Center without a visual of the person requesting entry. Cameras are needed to identify people gaining entry and to monitor the lobby against vandalism. The cameras will also monitor and record violent behavior that has occurred in the lobby area during business hours. The presence of the cameras may act as a deterrent to such behavior. Acquisition and installation of the cameras is estimated to cost \$20,000.

There are 4 detective vehicles that are being replaced and each will require the installation of a new 2-way police radio for emergency communications at a cost of \$10,000. The current radios are over 15 years old and are no longer serviceable. A replacement program has been budgeted and set to begin in fiscal year 2010. The program will address this issue by incrementally replacing car radios on a yearly basis.

Additionally, to further the goal of education, the Santa Barbara Police Department desires to provide \$14,000 to the Santa Barbara Police Activities League in order to provide after school programs to junior high school age children to include basketball, soccer, hip-hop dance and martial arts. These programs will greatly enhance a safe environment for after school sports and dance and promote interaction with the Santa Barbara Police Activities League. The programming will be provided to all four City junior high schools, including Goleta Valley Junior High School.

The "Kids Fight Drugs" Calendar Program is an annual program sponsored by the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse as an educational measure to help curb drug abuse. The District Attorney's Office, in conjunction with the Santa Barbara Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and its Fighting Back Task Force, sponsored an anti-drug poster contest in the local schools. The Santa Barbara Police Department, Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office, and the District Attorney's Office agreed to share the \$30,000 cost of producing 25,000 anti-drug calendars which will feature the 12 winning posters. The Police Department's share is \$9,000.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The City's General Budget is not affected by this request. The Asset Forfeiture Fund is a separate Special Revenue Fund. Asset forfeiture funds are regulated by the Health and Safety Code and cannot be mixed with the General Fund.

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